

# Notice of Allowability

## Application No.

10/642,283

## Examiner

DAMEON E. LEVI

## Applicant(s)

KAKINOKI ET AL.

## Art Unit

2841

### - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/16/2008(RCE) 02/08/2008(Interview).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 11, 13, and 14(Renumbered 1-12).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 02/08/2008.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher A. Bennett (Reg. No. 46,710) on 02/08/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **AMEND CLAIM 1 AS FOLLOWS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A card-like computer peripheral device,  
comprising:

a frame;

upper and lower covers disposed on upper and lower sides of the frame;

a circuit board disposed within the frame between the upper and lower covers;

an input/output connector provided at an end of the circuit board;

a sheet member including a draw-processed sheet member treated with coloring  
or marking; and

a transparent or translucent cover case; wherein

the sheet member includes an upper portion and three side portions;

each of the upper portion and the three side portions of the sheet member is  
connected to one another by rounded joint portions;

the sheet member is fitted into the cover case such that the sheet member extends in close contact with an inner surface of the cover case;  
the sheet member is a three-dimensional member;  
each of the three side portions extends substantially perpendicularly downward from the upper portion; [and]  
the rounded joint portions connect the three side portions to the upper portion;  
and the circuit board is sandwiched and held by the cover case and the frame such that the sheet member and the frame lie in contact with opposing surfaces of the circuit board.

**AMEND CLAIM 8 AS FOLLOWS:**

Claim 8 (currently amended): A card-like computer peripheral device, comprising:  
a frame having a groove formed along at least one side thereof;  
upper and lower covers disposed on upper and lower sides of the frame;  
a circuit board disposed within the frame between the upper and lower covers;  
an input/output connector provided at an end of the circuit board;  
a sheet member including a draw-processed sheet member treated with coloring or marking; and  
a transparent or translucent cover case; wherein  
the sheet member includes an upper portion and three side portions;

Art Unit: 2841

each of the upper portion and the three side portions of the sheet member is connected to one another by rounded joint portions; and

at least one of the three side portions of the sheet member is inserted into the groove of the frame;

the transparent or translucent cover case and the frame are firmly fixed to each other so as to sandwich and hold a portion of the sheet member, including said at least one side;

the sheet member is a three-dimensional member;

each the three side portions extends substantially perpendicularly downward from the upper portion; [and]

the rounded joint portions connect the three side portions to the upper portion; and the circuit board is sandwiched and held by the cover case and the frame such that the sheet member and the frame lie in contact with opposing surfaces of the circuit board.

**CANCEL CLAIM 10:**

**AMEND CLAIM 11 AS FOLLOWS:**

Claim 11 (currently amended): The card-like computer peripheral device according to Claim [10] 8, [further comprising an] wherein the upper [metal] cover is firmly fixed to the cover case and the frame, and [a] the lower [metal] cover is

firmly fixed to the frame such that at least a colored or marked pattern printed on the sheet member is exposed.

**AMEND CLAIM 13 AS FOLLOWS:**

Claim 13 (currently amended): The card-like computer peripheral device according to Claim 1, wherein the [decorative film] sheet member is made of one of polystyrene, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer, acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, methacrylic resin, cellulosic resin, polycarbonate, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinylidene chloride, polyacetal, polyamide, and fluorocarbon resin.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

**Claims 1-9, 11, 13, and 14(Renumbered 1-12) are allowable.**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In response to remarks and claim amendments made in Applicants' Request for Continued Examination, as well as, an Interview with Applicants Representative, the summary attached herewith, and, upon conclusion of a comprehensive search of the pertinent prior art, the Office indicates that the claims, as amended, are allowable.

**Regarding independent claim 1**, patentability exists, at least in part, with the claimed wherein the sheet member includes an upper portion and three side portions; each of the upper portion and the three side portions of the sheet member is connected to one

another by rounded joint portions; the sheet member is fitted into the cover case such that the sheet member extends in close contact with an inner surface of the cover case; the sheet member is a three-dimensional member; each of the three side portions extends substantially perpendicularly downward from the upper portion; the rounded joint portions connect the three side portions to the upper portion.

**Regarding independent claim 8**, patentability exists, at least in part, with the claimed features of wherein the sheet member includes an upper portion and three side portions; each of the upper portion and the three side portions of the sheet member is connected to one another by rounded joint portions; and at least one of the three side portions of the sheet member is inserted into the groove of the frame; the transparent or translucent cover case and the frame are firmly fixed to each other so as to sandwich and hold a portion of the sheet member, including said at least one side; the sheet member is a three-dimensional member; each the three side portions extends substantially perpendicularly downward from the upper portion.

The pertinent prior art, when taken alone, or, in combination, cannot be construed as adequately teaching or suggesting all of the limitations as arranged, provided, and disposed in the manner as claimed by the Applicants.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAMEON E. LEVI whose telephone number is (571)272-2105. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. (9:00 - 5:00) IFP, Fridays Telework.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jeremy C. Norris/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2841

Dameon E Levi  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2841

DEL